

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 12 and 50 are amended. Claims 1-11, 30, 31, 34, and 35 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 12-29, 32, 33, and 36-50 are pending, with claims 12 and 50 being independent.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 12-29, 32, 33, and 36-50 are allowable. Claims 12 and 50 have been rewritten in independent form and, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-29, 32, 33, and 36-50 are in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 8-9, 30-31, and 34-35 stand rejected as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant has canceled claims 8-9, 30-31, and 34-35, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 10-11 stand rejected being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,486,018 (Sakai). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant has canceled claims 1-6 and 10-11, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

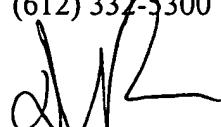
Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-9 stand rejected as being obvious over Sakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,153,237 (Supalla). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection; however, Applicant has canceled claims 7-9, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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